United Nations S/2001/503

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 May 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 16 May 2001 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1298 (2000) concerning the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1298 (2000) concerning the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 16 May 2001 (see annex). The report, which was adopted by the Committee on 16 May 2001, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) Anund Priyay **Neewoor**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1298 (2000) concerning the
situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1298 (2000) concerning the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

I. Introduction

1. On 17 May 2000, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council adopted resolution 1298 (2000) by which, in paragraph 6, it decided that all States should prevent the sale or supply to Eritrea and Ethiopia of arms and related materiel of all types and the provision of technical assistance or training related to the prohibited items. During the period covered by the present report, no modification was made by the Council to the mandate of the Committee, as outlined in paragraph 8 of resolution 1298 (2000).

2. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1298 (2000) is submitting this report to the Council in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 1298 (2000). The report covers the work of the Committee from 1 January to 16 May 2001.

3. Following consultations, the members of the Security Council agreed to elect Anund Priyay Neewoor (Mauritius) as Chairman and the delegations of Colombia and Tunisia as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee for 2001. The Committee held one informal meeting and one formal meeting.

4. On 7 March 2001, the Committee adopted the guidelines for the conduct of its work. These guidelines were transmitted to all Member States.

5. This report was adopted by the Committee on 16 May 2001.

II. Status of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1298 (2000)

6. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 1298 (2000), the Committee expected to receive further replies from States concerning the measures that they had instituted in order to meet the obligations set out in paragraph 6 of the resolution. Two replies were received, from New Zealand and France.

III. Summary of the Committee's activities during the reporting period

7. During the period covered by this report, the Committee received no reports from international/regional organizations on violations of the established prohibitions. On 3 and 10 May 2001, members of the Committee received copies of press information, retrieved by the Committee secretariat from public sources, reporting that a Ukrainian aircraft with 8 people on board and carrying 30 tons of rifles and ammunition, originating from the Czech Republic and officially destined for Georgia, had been seized by the Bulgarian authorities. The plane was impounded

when it landed to refuel at Bulgaria's Bourgas Airport after its pilot allegedly requested permission to take off for Eritrea. The Committee discussed the matter at its meeting held on 9 May 2001. The Committee appreciated the additional information orally provided by the delegation of Ukraine at the meeting. The Committee decided to seek further information from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Israel, Eritrea, Georgia and Ukraine. The Committee requested them to undertake investigations so as to prove or dispel the information provided and report back as soon as possible, but not later than within 30 days from the date of the issuance of the letters. On 10 May 2001, the Committee received letters from Ukraine and Bulgaria informing of the current stage of their investigations of the incident. The Committee appreciated such prompt information and welcomed the intention of the authorities of both countries to inform of the outcome of these investigations.

IV. Observations and recommendations

8. The Committee did not have any specific monitoring mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the arms embargo and relied solely on the cooperation of States and organizations in a position to provide pertinent information. Hence, the Committee, due to the lack of such information, was constrained in the discharge of its mandate.